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## AVIAN TUBERCULOSIS IN MAN RESEMBLING LEPROSY.

### AN ABSTRACT OF A REPORT OF A CASE OF SKIN TUBERCULOSIS CAUSED BY THE AVIAN TYPE OF THE TUBERCLE BACILLUS.

Abstracted by GEO. W. MCCOY, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service, Director Leprosy Investigation Station, Molokai, Hawaii.

In a recent paper (Archiv für Dermatologie und Syphilis, CXX Band, 2 Heft, June, 1914) Lipschütz, of Vienna, reports a case of cutaneous tuberculosis with complications due to the invasion of other structures which is of interest in connection with the diagnosis of leprosy. Cases of human infection with the avian type of the tubercle bacillus have been reported by several observers, but they are by no means frequent, and the case referred to appears to be the first one in which skin lesions were conspicuous.

The case had been under observation from time to time during a period of about five years and terminated fatally. The patient was a young adult male from Bosnia (one of the several European foci of leprosy). The clinical diagnosis at different times was lupus, syphilitic ulceration, and a combination of both diseases. The earlier lesions were chiefly ulceration of the oral mucous membrane with infiltration and ulceration of the nose and the upper lip. Later, pigmented, infiltrated spots appeared on the arms and body.

Improvement occurred several times, only to be followed by relapses.

The tuberculin reaction was positive; the Wassermann, negative. Toward the end of the disease, soft, elastic, subcutaneous tumors appeared at several points. An X-ray examination showed a carious condition of the metacarpal bones. Fistulous openings developed as a result of the necrosis. There was considerable destruction of tissue at the primary focus of the disease on the nose and lip. The cartilaginous septum of the nose was ulcerated. There was no evidence of visceral disease, though the patient became emaciated.

The skin lesions were essentially brownish-red or livid, nodulelike, infiltrations. They were found in the axilla, arm, gluteal region and over the scapula.

About two months prior to the death of the patient pus from the subcutaneous abscesses was examined microscopically and found to contain enormous numbers of acid-fast and alcohol-fast bacilli. The organisms were longer than *B. tuberculosis* or *B. lepræ*, but lay in groups and bundles as the latter do. Some were extracellular, but many were found in the leucocytes. The same organisms were found in preparations from the ulcers on the hard palate and on the nasal septum and in the internal organs at autopsy.

Sections also showed such numbers of acid-fast bacilli as one is accustomed to see in leprous tissue only. Attempts at cultures by

Lipschütz were unsuccessful, but his colleague, Dr. Löwenstein, secured a growth of the organism from an inoculated animal.

Extensive cultural and inoculation experiments left no doubt that the organisms were those of avian tuberculosis.

The organisms were slightly pathogenic for rabbits and guinea pigs but markedly so for fowls. Success in inoculating the latter together with the characteristics of the cultures made the nature of the infection clear.

*Comment.*—The nature of the lesions, the chronicity of the disease, and the results of the microscopical examinations would be in agreement with leprosy, and only exhaustive animal inoculations and cultural tests would serve to establish the diagnosis. Perhaps the point to emphasize especially is that the presence of large numbers of acid-fast and alcohol-fast bacilli may be found in a disease other than leprosy. In size, number, staining reactions, and location, the organisms, as shown by the illustrations accompanying the article, would pass anywhere as those of leprosy.

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## IMPOUNDED WATERS.

### THEIR EFFECT ON THE PREVALENCE OF MALARIA—SURVEY AT BLEWETTS FALLS.

By H. R. CARTER, Senior Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

Under bureau instructions a survey was made of the pond of the power plant at Blewetts Falls, N. C. This survey was undertaken as part of the field investigation of malaria, and its object was to determine the relations of this pond to the breeding of *Anopheles* mosquitoes.

It is intended that this work shall form part of a general investigation of the effect of impounded waters on the incidence of malaria, involving the survey of a number of other ponds and leading, we hope, to the determination of the conditions about the pond which affect the production of malaria, and finally of the measures to be taken for producing the best sanitary conditions possible about the pond. Such an investigation should be spread over four or five years. Another paper discusses the general features of the problem and its importance. (Public Health Reports, Dec. 25, 1914, p. 3458.)

The determination of the production of *Anopheles* mosquitoes rather than the production of malaria was the immediate object of this inquiry. The latter requires consideration not only of mosquitoes—malaria vectors—but people accessible to them—i. e., residing within their distance of flight. This part of the problem was not touched, and our conclusions will involve the incidence of malaria from the breeding places found only if people are living within the